

## OUR CONSTITUTION

**Preamble:** Believing that it is our duty and privilege as Christian parents to provide Christian education for our children, and believing that this can best be accomplished by concerted action, we do hereby make and adopt the following articles of association, to wit:

**Article I - Name:** This organization shall be known as the Trenton Christian School Society Incorporated.

**Article II - Basis:** The supreme standard of the Christian School Society for Elementary and/or secondary education shall be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which we believe to be the Word of God. (11 Timothy 3:16).

**Article III - Guiding Principles:** Believing that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the Scriptures, has revealed to His people ordering principles intensely relevant to education, and mandates man to bring the whole Word of God to bear in all its powers upon education, we confess:

1. **Life:** That human life in its entirety is centred in Jesus Christ, for God created man to serve Him everywhere and requires us to educate our children for His service.
2. **Bible:** That the Bible, as the written word of God, is the Truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, ourselves and the world, and is the infallible authority by which He directs and governs all our activities, including the education of our children.
3. **Creation:** That since the world, in its origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration, is the work of the Triune God, and since the glorification of His Name is its purpose, we can understand the world rightly only in its relation to Him.
4. **Man:** That man was created in the image of God to enjoy covenantal fellowship with his Creator and to reflect in his person and works the excellencies of His Maker. Man was instructed to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God and to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law.
5. **Sin:** That sin is disobedience to God's law; that man, by sinning, forsook his office and task, estranged himself from God and his neighbour and brought God's curse upon the creation. As a result, man has become corrupt in heart and blind to the true meaning of life and represses and misuses the knowledge of God which confronts him in creation and in Scripture.
6. **Christ:** That Jesus Christ, of Whom the Scriptures testify, Who is truly God and fully man, has reconciled the world to God and redeems our life in its entirety. Through His Spirit He renews our heart to love God and our neighbour, and redirects our understanding to know rightly God, ourselves and the world.
7. **The Kingdom of God:** That the Kingdom of God is His righteous and universal rule through Jesus Christ. This rule calls for His subjects to make every word, thought, and deed, subservient to Christ. In obedience to Christ's rule we submit every area of life to Him and reject every attempt to withdraw any aspect of life from the divine commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.
8. **Goal of Education:** That the goal of Christian education is to direct and guide the child to commit his heart to Christ the Truth, to attain to understanding, wisdom and righteousness, and to perform his competent and responsible service to the Lord in church, state and society.
9. **Parents:** That God has given parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. Therefore, parents should establish and maintain Christian schools.
10. **The Child:** That the child, entrusted by God to parents, needs ordering, correction and instruction. Children of the Christian home are a heritage of the Lord and share in the demands and promises of the gospel and ought to receive Christian education.
11. **The Teacher:** That the teacher, as a servant of God, exercises authority and has a unique

responsibility in the performance of his office while educating the child in the school.

12. **The Christian School:** That the Christian school, established and controlled by an association of Christian believers, possesses the freedom to function in education in total and voluntary submission to Christ the King.

**Article IV - Purpose:** The purpose of the Association is to establish, maintain, and operate schools for the daily instruction of children; which is in accordance with Articles II and III of this By-law.

**Article V - Membership:** All who wish to become members of the Trenton Christian School Society may request a membership form from the board members or the school's office. The membership form declares that you are in agreement with articles 2, and 3 of the constitution of the Trenton Christian School Society.

**Article XIV - Amendments:** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of this organization provided that two weeks' previous notice has been sent to each member stating the desired change. By-Law No. 1 Articles II & III can be amended only with 75% majority vote of the membership present.

#### **APPLICATION:**

1. Trenton Christian School is a school. It is not a church whose very essence is one clearly laid out in terms of doctrine, creeds and positional statements on the interpretation of scripture. It is not a home whose members are small in number and of like mind. In partnership with the home and the church, Trenton Christian School is an institution established by parents to provide a structured set of learning experiences which, taken as a whole, will *"train the child in the way he/she should go and when he/she is old he/she will not turn from it."* (Proverbs 2:6). The school is a training ground mandated to equip its students with the tools necessary to become an active contributing member of the body of Christ poised to enter the 21st century.
2. At Trenton Christian School, we believe that God calls Christians to be actively engaged in politics, commerce, science, education and the arts. These fields of activity are not to be viewed as "worldly;" rather the faithful are called to address such areas as legitimate human concerns and to restore them to something of God's original perfection rather than turn their backs on them. We want our Christian school pupils to analyse and respond to societal phenomena and issues.
3. We believe that the Christian school teacher directs the learning process with God's Word in one hand and God's Created Order in the other. Each complements the other.
4. God is the great Revealer, (Col. 1:15-20) continually active in the world. We must discuss the evil that pervades the world and develop alternatives. This gives students discriminating knowledge in order to exercise discernment in their future life choices. Christian school curriculum seeks to develop wise and responsible disciples of Christ.

- 5. A Christian school is a place where Christian educators refuse to be satisfied with providing only factual knowledge and marketable skills. Rather, teachers in a Christian school seek to transform all activities and studies into an expression of biblical wisdom, training the students to walk as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 6. Our children must understand the basic structure of our environment. They must sense God's order, design, and presence there. But they must also understand how sin has distorted it; they must understand the Lord's will for all areas of the creation, and be able to act accordingly. They must develop the beginning of wisdom, as they learn to address the issues of our time.

Christian education continually evaluates all human activity, taking note of the effects of sin and helping students learn to distinguish between God's will and sinful responses. We are in the world not of the world. **(John 17: 15,16; Romans 12:2)**

- 1. We believe that the entire created order is subject to God's will, laws, and ordinances. "There is not a single inch on the whole terrain of human experience over which Christ does not exclaim, 'Mine!' Each sphere of life is subject to the all encompassing sovereignty of God. We believe that the Christian school is called not just to couple piety with intellect, nor just to preserve biblical studies in our schools, but more basically to see every area of thought and life in relation to the wisdom and will of God. (James 3:13; Psalm 111:10)
- 2. To educate is a sacred trust. The teacher's task is to inspire and equip students to think and act for themselves and to use their gifts to respond to God's will in their lives.
- 3. Important goals of Christian education include the ability to see students make and articulate a commitment to Jesus as Lord and Saviour; to be capable to coping and competing in our modern age with unique and sensitive manners as taught by God's word. We must bring Christ's healing message to a world that is deeply affected and distressed by sin.
- 4. The sensitive issue of teaching about and exposing students to the evils in this world should be age-appropriate and done with wisdom in a specific and realistic manner. The goal of this teaching is to give students discriminating knowledge in order to exercise discernment in their future life choices. (1 Cor. 10: 21,22)

The Christian life is life in community that works at the renewal of culture in the name of the Lord ... its use of natural resources, its literature and art, its politics and economics, in the spirit of anticipation ... the spirit of those who anticipate a new heaven and a new earth ... training children, in the manner of the school, for living the Christian life; ... this life as a life of community that toils at the transformation of culture, the whole of it governed by a vision, no doubt a partial vision, of the Kingdom of God - this is the purpose of our Christian school.

- 6. Trenton Christian school, then, stands in the world, as a testimony of God's grace. It surveys the entire creation, explores the effects of sin, and declares that its program is designed to lead to wisdom. It is a place where our children learn to understand and confront the world, following Christ in every area of life.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ agree with the above constitution.

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